

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Allowable Claims

The allowance of claims 9, 12-14, 16, 17 and 28 is noted with appreciation as is the indicated allowability of claims 22-24. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form whereby claims 22-24 are now in proper form for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner continues to reject claim 1 as being anticipated by Klein. Although exception is taken to this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the relationship between the repositionable island and the main unit when the repositionable island is attached to the front wall of the main unit. When attached to the front wall, the island extends away from the front wall of the main unit perpendicularly to the lengthwise extent of the countertop, which lengthwise extent extends lengthwise between the side walls. This arrangement is neither disclosed nor suggested by Klein.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable.


Entry of the amendment to claim 1 is respectfully requested. The amendment was not submitted earlier as it was not understood that the Examiner considered the "island" of Klein to be attached to the front wall of the main unit at the edge of the front wall with the repositionable island extending away from the front wall of the main unit, whereas the undersigned considered the "island" to be extending to the side of the main unit. The amendments address the Examiner's interpretation of Klein by clearly defining the perpendicular relationship between the counter and the repositionable island when the island is attached to the front wall of the main unit. This amendment is not believed to require a new search as the original search presumably would have encompassed structures similar to those claimed and shown in the drawings.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: March 23, 2005


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